



# Georgia

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday  
March 12,  
2020

# DAILY REPORT

28th  
Legislative  
Day

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 29th Legislative Day on Friday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.

## Today on the Floor

### Conference Committee Reports

#### **HB 792 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

**Bill Summary:** The Amended FY 2020 budget is set by a revenue estimate of \$27.3 billion, a decrease of \$159 million from the original FY 2020 estimate. The bill, tracking sheet, and highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website: <http://www.house.ga.gov/budget>.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Ralston (7th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Conference Committee Reports:** *The House adopted the Conference Committee Report with a vote of 166-1. The Senate has adopted the Conference Committee Report. (Adoption of the conference committee report represents final passage of the bill.)*

### Motions to Agree

#### **HB 105 Income tax; certain income received by taxpayers as payments from a disaster relief or assistance program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with Hurricane Michael; exempt**

**Bill Summary:** HB 105 provides an income tax exemption for income received as payments from a disaster relief or assistance program. The payments must be connected with Hurricane Michael and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The bill also adds a new article to Chapter 13 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. and exempts from sales tax all transportation that is subject to excise tax in the new article. The new article establishes a \$0.50 per ride excise tax on each for-hire ground transportation trip and a \$0.25 cent per ride excise tax on each shared for-hire ground transportation trip. The proceeds of such excise tax shall be appropriated to a transit provider to be used exclusively for transit projects. If the full amount is not appropriated to the intended provider, the amount of the tax shall be reduced by 50 percent in the following year. If the amount collected is not appropriated to the intended provider for a second year, this Code section shall stand repealed.

The bill also amends 48-13-50.3 of the O.C.G.A., relating to additional tax imposed by innkeepers, forms for reporting, use of funds from additional taxes, and provisions for termination, by changing the definition of "transportation purposes" to mean activities incident to providing and maintain an adequate system of public roads and bridges in this state and for grants to counties for road construction and maintenance and establishing definitions for "transit" and "transit projects". The bill allows up to 10 percent of the fees collected from the \$5 per night fee on hotel and motel stays to be appropriated for transit projects.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)

**Rule Applied:** Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree represents final passage of the bill.)*

## Rules Calendar

### HB 86 Education; complaints policy for teachers and other school personnel; provisions

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 86 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-989.7 to allow teachers to appeal a summative personnel evaluation of 'Unsatisfactory,' 'Ineffective,' or 'Needs Development' to an independent third party. Local units of administration must develop a complaint review policy for teachers to appeal an evaluation by October 1, 2020, and submit the policy to the Department of Education.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)  
**House** Education  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 155 Nays: 2

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### HB 93 Water pollution and surface-water use; notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments; provide

**Bill Summary:** HB 879 requires the owner or operator of a coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundment to provide written notice to the director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the local governing authority within three days of the commencement of a dewatering operation. The director of EPD must post a public notice on the division's website within seven days of receiving the notice. The owner or operator of the CCR surface impoundment must also post CCR rule compliance data in a public notice on their website, as well as publish such notice in the legal organ of the affected county within 14 days.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ricky Williams (145th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### HB 244 Electric membership corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers; require

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 244 requires electric membership corporations (EMCs) to comply with certain requirements when determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers. The Public Service Commission (PSC) shall publish the rates and conditions for pole attachments by January 1, 2021. The rates and conditions will become effective on July 1, 2021 for any pole attachment agreement entered into by a provider and an EMC, except for a mutual agreement between the parties, which differs from the PSC rates. The PSC shall have jurisdiction to enforce compliance with the provisions.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)  
**House** Economic Development & Tourism  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 116 Nays: 44

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-03-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### HB 336 Retirement and pensions; require certain public employers to make employer and employee contributions to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia for beneficiaries employed by such certain public employers

**Bill Summary:** HB 336 allows the public school system to hire a retired member of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia to provide classroom instruction in an area of highest need if one year has expired from the member's effective date of retirement. "Areas of highest need" are determined by the Regional Education Service Agency to which the public school system is assigned, in coordination with the Department of Education. The employer is required to pay the employee and employer contributions attributable to the salary of the rehired retired member. If the employer does not pay the employer or employee contribution, the state will deduct that amount from funds payable to the employer and the payment will be made directly to the retirement system. This bill is effective from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. This bill is certified by the Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines there is no cost to this legislation.

**Authored By:** Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)  
**House** Retirement  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 161 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 02-28-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 448 Excise tax; rooms, lodgings, and accommodations; revise definition of innkeeper to include lodging facilitators**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 448 amends Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48, relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, by expanding the definition of "innkeeper" to include any dealer that is required to collect and remit sales tax as a marketplace facilitator for facilitating the sale of rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The definition expansion requires the innkeepers acting as marketplace facilitators to collect and remit the local excise taxes due on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations. The bill also modifies the five-dollar hotel/motel excise tax found in O.C.G.A. 48-13-50.3 to apply to all rooms, lodgings, or accommodations with the exception of extended stay rentals or lodgings or accommodations that do not provide shelter.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Dollar (45th)  
**House** Ways & Means  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 105 Nays: 48

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 02-20-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 452 Revenue, Department of; access Bank Match Registry for certain purposes; allow**

**Bill Summary:** HB 452 amends Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 48, relating to the administration of revenue and taxation, to create new Section 48-2-63. The bill authorizes the Department of Revenue (DOR) to enter into agreements with financial institutions to develop and operate an automated data exchange. Upon request from DOR, the financial institution will provide the name, record address, social security number or other taxpayer identification number, average daily account balance, and other identifying information for each delinquent taxpayer who maintains an account at the financial institution. DOR is further authorized to designate a third party to administer and operate the automated data exchange. Any data exchange is protected as if it is confidential tax information and will not be disclosed, except as authorized in this Code section.

A financial institution will submit a report that identifies any accounts the financial institution holds with respect to the delinquent taxpayer upon request and in an electronic format the department describes. The DOR shall make no more than four requests a year that identifies a delinquent taxpayer that the DOR has filed an execution in accordance with Chapter 3 of this title. The DOR may adopt rules establishing the procedures and requirements for conducting automated data matches with financial institutions pursuant to this Code section.

The bill also makes it unlawful for any person to divulge confidential tax information in violation of this Code section. Any person convicted is subject to the same penalties that would apply to an employee of the DOR convicted of divulging confidential tax information. The use of this data is limited to the department's enforcement for the collection of taxes and fees it administers. The DOR shall administer this Code section in the same manner prescribed in Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 19, relating to child support recovery.

A financial institution is prohibited from disclosing to any person, including the delinquent taxpayer, any information that has been received from or furnished to the DOR. A financial institution shall not be liable under state law for complying with the requirements of this Code section. A financial institution may charge an account levied on by the DOR a fee in an amount not less than \$20 and not more than \$50, which shall be deducted from the account prior to remitting funds to the DOR.

The DOR may institute civil proceedings to enforce this Code section and has the authority to levy and seize any accounts identified under this Code section in accordance with Code Section 48-2-55. The commissioner requesting bank or account information under this Code section shall not be liable for costs otherwise assessable pursuant to Code Section 7-1-237.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)  
**House** Judiciary  
**Committee:**

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 115 Nays: 42**Amendments:****HB 479 Hidden Predator Act of 2019; enact**

**Bill Summary:** HB 479, the 'Child Victim Protection Act of 2020,' revises Section 9-3-33.1 of the Code, relating to actions for childhood sexual abuse. Civil actions for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse committed on or after July 1, 2015, may be brought within four years (extended from two years) from the date that the plaintiff knew or had reason to know of the abuse, and the abuse resulted in injury established by competent medical or psychological evidence.

Effective July 1, 2020, a plaintiff between the age of 23 and 38 years old may bring a civil action for recovery of damages because of childhood sexual abuse. When such actions are brought against a person who was a volunteer, or an employee of an entity with the duty to care for the plaintiff, or the person and the plaintiff were engaged in some activity under the control of the entity, damages will be only be awarded if there is a preponderance of evidence that: finds gross negligence on the part of the entity; the entity knew or should have known of the alleged conduct; and the entity failed to take remedial action.

A look-back period of one year is established as of July 1, 2020, during which a plaintiff of any age, who was previously barred by a statute of limitations, may file an action for recovery of damages suffered as a result of childhood sexual abuse against a perpetrator or an entity. If filed against an entity, the plaintiff must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the entity owed a duty of care to the plaintiff and: the entity knew of the abuse by an employee or volunteer and intentionally allowed the abuse to continue; or knew the employee or volunteer committed previous abuse against another individual and intentionally or fraudulently harbored, concealed, or withheld information about the prior act, resulting in the plaintiff's injury.

Actions against an entity shall not include actions or inactions occurring before July 1, 1988. Individual members or owners of unincorporated associations are not liable for the actions of the association. Sovereign and governmental immunity is expressly waived for actions pursued against entities during the look-back period.

**Authored By:** Rep. Heath Clark (147th)  
**House** Judiciary  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 147 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-11-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 488 Commerce and trade; prevent organized retail crime**

**Bill Summary:** HB 488 requires merchants that buy or resell stored value cards to record certain information regarding the transaction in the same way as a pawnshop, and knowingly failing to do so may be punished as a misdemeanor.

In addition, a plea of nolo contendere for the crime of shoplifting counts as a conviction when counting subsequent convictions for shoplifting. HB 488 allows a judge to depart from the mandatory minimum sentence for fourth or subsequent offenses when the prosecuting attorney and the defendant have agreed to a sentence that is below the mandatory sentence.

Finally, HB 488 creates the new offense of organized retail theft. A person is guilty of organized retail theft when that person appropriates property of a store or retail establishment without paying for the property; the property is taken from one or more stores over a period of 180 days with the intent to sell it for monetary or other gain; and the aggregate value of the property subject to the theft has a value exceeding \$20,000. The punishment for organized retail theft is a felony with a term of imprisonment not less than five nor more than 20 years and a fine not to exceed \$50,000.

**Authored By:** Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 144 Nays: 15

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 02-28-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 593 Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia; create**

Bill Summary: HB 593 creates the Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia, open to certain tax commissioners, tax collectors, tax receivers, and the secretary-treasurer of the fund. The bill creates a Board of Commissioners consisting of seven members. Members are required to pay \$105 per month and additional funds will come from a \$3 fee collected by county tax commissioners on each delinquent tax bill. Members are eligible for benefits once they reach 96 months of creditable service, turn 60 years old, and are no longer serving as a full-time tax commissioner. The benefit will be \$12 for each month of creditable service in the fund. This will not impact participation in any other retirement system and the State Auditor will conduct an annual audit of the Board and report that to the General Assembly. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation estimates the total increase in the annual employer contribution is \$660,116. Of the total increase, \$126,000 is covered by member contributions and the remaining \$534,116 is funded through the \$3 fee collected on each delinquent tax bill.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)  
**House** Retirement  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 72 Nays: 83  
**Floor Action:** **Failed**

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 01-14-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 690 Buildings and housing; agricultural structures from permitting fees; exempt**

Bill Summary: HB 690 states that no county or municipal corporation shall charge a permit fee exceeding \$500 for the construction or renovation of an agricultural structure. "Agricultural structure" is defined as a farm labor camp or any building used for the production or processing of one of the following: crops; livestock; animals; poultry; honeybees; honeybee products; livestock products; poultry products; timber; forest products; or products used in commercial aquaculture.

**Authored By:** Rep. James Burchett (176th)  
**House** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 153 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 719 Crimes and offenses; modernization of HIV related laws; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 719 modernizes several statutes regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) issues to reflect current scientific understanding and advancements made in HIV care. This bill amends certain parts of the criminal Code, amends statute to protect syringe service programs from being criminally liable, and creates consistency across statutes by removing hypodermic needles and syringes.

**Authored By:** Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 124 Nays: 40

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 02-25-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 720 Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow the mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify**

Bill Summary: HB 720 makes adjustments in Code related to persons convicted of a sexual offense. It requires at least one year of probation following the mandatory term of imprisonment for certain sexual offenses. For second or subsequent convictions for certain sexual offenses for different events than a previous conviction, the bill requires probation for life and is subject to electronic monitoring. After 10 years of probation, probationers for life who have met certain criteria may have the probation terminated by a petition to the court filed by the Department of Community Supervision, and the court shall take whatever action it determines is in the best interest of justice and society.

Any law enforcement agency of a competent jurisdiction may post a sign in the front of the residence of any person on such probation that states 'No candy or treats at this residence' on October 30th and 31st of each year.

The bill renames the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board as the Sexual Offender Risk Review Board, and is authorized to hire investigators. HB 720 provides a framework for how the board determines classifications and how offenders can dispute the classification of the board.

HB 720 clarifies that the consent of the victim under the age of 16 is not a defense for sodomy, aggravated sodomy, sexual battery, aggravated sexual battery, child molestation, aggravated child molestation. If a victim chooses not to immediately report a sexual assault, the investigation law enforcement agency must maintain any physical evidence collected for not less than 12 months. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council shall create and operate a statewide sexual assault kit tracking system and submit a semiannual report on the data to the appropriate committees of the legislature and to the governor.

Finally, the Georgia Composite Medical Review Board is required to revoke or suspend physicians who have committed a sexual assault on a patient.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee</b>	03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 98 Nays: 63	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 736 Education; loan forgiveness program for teachers who agree to teach in a turnaround school in a high demand subject area; establish**

Bill Summary: HB 736 creates a refundable income tax credit for a teacher recruitment and retention program managed by the State Board of Education. Eligible teachers include those with a bachelor's degree in education from a postsecondary institution in Georgia that has a teacher certification program certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Additionally, a teacher must accept their first school-year contract in the 2020-2021 school year in a rural or turnaround school identified by the Department of Education and hold a valid five-year induction or professional certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Eligible teachers must submit an application to the department to participate, and no new applications will be accepted after December 31, 2020.

The department will identify no more than 100 rural and turnaround schools, and the recruitment and retention program are limited to 1,000 participating teachers. Participating teachers are eligible for a refundable tax credit of \$3,000 per each school year for no more than five years.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Office of Student Achievement will evaluate the program and provide the governor, General Assembly, and State Board of Education with a report that includes the number of participants and the length of participation in the program.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. D. C. Belton (112th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Higher Education	<b>Committee</b>	03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 158 Nays: 2	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 761 Public utilities and public transportation; eliminate percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make and maintain in a gas affiliate**

Bill Summary: House Bill 761 raises the investment cap that electric membership corporations may make and maintain in a gas affiliate from 15 to 60 percent.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. John Carson (46th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Energy, Utilities &	<b>Committee</b>	02-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>	Telecommunications	<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 158 Nays: 7	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 821 Retirement and pensions; granting postretirement benefit adjustments to certain individuals; provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 821 allows Employee's Retirement System, Judicial Retirement System, and Legislative Retirement System members who retired after July 1, 2009 to receive a post retirement

benefit adjustment on or after July 1, 2020, if the Board of Trustees grants the adjustment. The Department of Audits and Accounts has certified HB 821 as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)  
**House** Retirement  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 92 Nays: 66

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 02-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 833 Waters, ports, and watercraft; promulgate rules and regulations regarding long-term anchoring; authorize**

Bill Summary: HB 833 defines "long-term anchoring" as anchoring a vessel within a 5,280-foot radius of a documented anchoring point for over 14 cumulative days in a calendar year. Anchoring a vessel within a 5,280-foot radius of a documented anchoring point for up to 14 cumulative days is considered short-term anchoring. "Anchorage restriction areas" are defined as any location in the state within 300 feet of a marina, 150 feet from a marine structure other than a marina, or within 500 feet of approved commercial shellfish growing or public harvest areas.

The bill prohibits any person from long-term anchoring a vessel in state estuarine areas without a permit issued by the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. Short-term anchoring is not affected and the commissioner may make exceptions.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 157 Nays: 6

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 848 State government; provide the Department of Administrative Services additional options when disposing of surplus property in the best interest of the state; change certain definitions**

Bill Summary: HB 848 allows the Department of Administrative Services to sell surplus property to political subdivisions, charitable institutions, or public corporations that are not located in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 854 Local government; battery charged fences; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 854 requires counties, municipalities, and consolidated governments to treat fence detection systems the same, in all matters, as alarm systems.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 153 Nays: 7

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-11-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 857 Conservation and natural resources; burning of certain chemically treated wood products for purposes of commercial energy generation; prohibit**

Bill Summary: HB 857 requires permits issued for biomass boilers to prohibit the burning of railroad ties treated with creosote or naphthenate compounds for the purpose of commercial electricity generation. Boilers that provide steam or electricity to a co-located forest products processing plant are exempt.

**Authored By:** Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**



**HB 864 Excise tax; sale of vapor devices and consumable vapor products; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 864 amends Chapter 11 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., relating to taxes on tobacco products, by establishing licensing and regulatory requirements on vapor products and an excise tax on vapor products, smokeless tobacco products, and modified risk tobacco products.

The bill establishes excise taxes of five cents per milliliter on consumable vapor products in a closed system and seven percent of the wholesale cost price on vapor devices and vapor devices that contain any consumable vapor product at the time of sale and are not intended to be refilled. The bill also reduces the tax on modified risk tobacco products by 50 percent.

"Consumable vapor product" is defined as any liquid solution that is intended to be heated into an aerosol state and inhaled by an individual. "Closed system" is defined as any disposable container which is pre-filled and sealed by the manufacturer and is intended or used to dispense consumable vapor products using a vapor device that is intended to be reused. "Open system" is defined as any method or manner used to contain a consumable vapor product that is not a closed system. "Vapor device" is defined as any system or device developed or intended to deliver a consumable vapor product to an individual who inhales from the device. "Modified risk tobacco products" is defined as any products that are included in a modified risk tobacco product order issued by the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 21 U.S.C. Section 387k as it existed on January 21, 2020.

No person shall engage in or conduct business relating to alternative nicotine products and vapor products without first obtaining a license from the commissioner of the Department of Revenue. The commissioner may require a separate license for each business activity and product including alternative nicotine products, vapor products, and traditional tobacco products or may allow the license holder to participate in all business activities and products under one license. The license fees for vapor products is an additional \$10 initial fee and an annual \$10 fee. Vapor products are included in the current regulatory structure for tobacco products and all sales must be made in a face-to-face manner with the purchaser being at least 21 years of age as shown on a valid identification. Home delivery of vapor products is allowed but requires that the recipient be at least 21 years of age as shown on a valid identification and provide a signature that matches that of the identification.

Alternative nicotine products and vapor products are incorporated into the Code section, which provides the department with the ability to regulate the tobacco industry.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2021.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th)  
**House** Ways & Means  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 83 Nays: 73  
**Floor Action:** **Tabled**

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 865 Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; Revised Probate Code of 1998; revise and update provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 865 is a comprehensive, 109-page bill that amends provisions of Titles 7, 9, 10, 15, 19, 23, 50, and 53 of the Code relating to wills, trusts, and the administration of estates.

The bill clarifies and expands the jurisdiction of the probate court, codifies long-standing common law regarding the incorporation of existing documents into wills by certain reference, and provides effect for separate personal property memoranda referred to in a will. The bill expands the jurisdiction of both non-Article 6 probate courts to include DNA testing and approval of settlement agreements and Article 6 probate courts to include trust matters and will constructions in fiduciary accounting proceedings. The probate court's ability to appoint a temporary administrator in the absence of a personal representative is clarified.

Regarding probate court procedure, the bill makes terminology more consistent throughout the Code, clarifies the requirements for service of notice and for filing creditors' claims, and restores the finality of solemn form probate. The time for filing objections in probate court is extended from 10 days to



the 30 days, except when good cause is shown for shortening the time for responding.

Regarding wills, the bill provides that will execution and trust formalities are not satisfied by electronic presence and signature. Conditions in terrorem, also known as "no contest" clauses", are not enforceable against an interested person for: bringing an action for interpretation or enforcement; bringing an action for an accounting, removal, or for other relief against a personal representative; or entering into a settlement agreement. The bill also updates terminology, corrects errors, and clarifies provisions regarding time and procedure for service of notice.

Regarding year's support, Chapter 3 of Title 53 clarifies the preference of year's support before all other debts or demands, allows for divestment of property taxes under certain circumstances, and clarifies the application of year's support provisions to a decedent's minor children by individuals other than the surviving spouse.

Regarding the trust Code, the bill expands amendments previously made to the trust Code in 2018 with respect to virtual representation, non-judicial settlement agreements, trust modification, trust decanting, and trust directors. The changes refine the definition of a charitable trust, address appellate authority concerning creditors' rights to revocable trusts, and codify actions that do not violate a "no contest" clause in a trust instrument. Modification of the rights and obligations of the trustee under the trust instrument may not be made without the trustee's consent or a hearing with good cause shown. The bill clears up Georgia's trust investment statute by explicitly providing for a "prudent investor" standard for the investment of trust assets. It also permits a trustee to consider the personal values of beneficiaries in making investment decisions.

Finally, the bill amends the 'Georgia Power of Attorney Act' to bring those uniform act provisions into line with pre-existing statutes regarding real property transfers and Medicaid qualification trusts. Article 6 probate court qualifications are amended to conform with the 2017 amendments to the superior and state court qualifications. The continued vitality of existing common law and equitable doctrines is codified for the probate Code, as it is for the trust Code, and the incorporation of powers by reference is clarified.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th)  
**House** Judiciary  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 150 Nays: 12

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-03-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 881 Domestic relations; provisions relating to safe places for newborns; revise**

**Bill Summary:** HB 881 establishes a committee to review newborn safety incubators. A report with recommendations will be submitted to the General Assembly by December 31, 2020. Additionally, the bill expands the existing Safe Haven Law by allowing newborn children to be left with ambulance providers.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 168 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 886 Animals; veterinarians or veterinary technicians that provide treatment to animals to scan such animals' microchips and to report ownership information under certain circumstances; require**

**Bill Summary:** HB 886 requires the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish and maintain a database for pet owners to register their microchipped pets. The database shall be created no later than July 1, 2021 and participation is optional for pet owners. The database is to be available to all licensed veterinarians, law enforcement agencies in the state, and animal control officers. Veterinarians are not required to own a microchip reader. If a pet is brought to a veterinarian for the first time and the veterinarian possesses a microchip reader, the veterinarian is required to scan the pet for a microchip. The veterinarian is to check the database to ensure the individual that brought the pet is the owner. If the information in the database suggests the individual is not the owner, the veterinarian is to report the information to the local law enforcement agency or animal control.

**Authored By:** Rep. Andrew Welch (110th)  
**House** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 147 Nays: 16

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 901 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; power to make loan commitments and loans to local governments and nongovernment agencies for projects that permanently protect land and water; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 901 allows the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to provide loans or loan commitments to local governments and non-governmental entities for projects that protect land or water with at least one of the following conservation purposes: water quality protection at rivers, streams, and lakes; flood or wetlands protection; erosion reduction; protection of riparian buffers; protection of agricultural and forestry lands; protection of cultural or heritage sites; scenic protection; recreational activities; or the connection of other qualifying projects.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 906 Heritage Trust Program; condition the method utilized for conveyance of heritage preserve property on the property's amount of acreage**

Bill Summary: HB 906 allows the Department of Natural Resources to convey fee simple title up to 15 acres of heritage preserve property to a county or local government or private entity. The Department of Natural Resources must receive approval from the department's board to remove the heritage preserve dedication from the property, approval from the State Properties Commission to convey the property, and file a notice of removal of the heritage preserve dedication with the Secretary of State's office and the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county or counties in which the property is located.

**Authored By:** Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 160 Nays: 7

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 907 Military; additional time period of service in the definition of "war veteran"; include**

Bill Summary: HB 907 expands the service period for the definition of "war veteran" to those who were discharged without any dishonorable conditions, served on active duty, or served in a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces to include January 1, 1947 through June 26, 1950.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)  
**House** Defense & Veterans Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 159 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 912 Social services; authorize foster parents to arrange for short-term babysitting**

Bill Summary: HB 912 allows a foster parent to arrange for an occasional short-term babysitter of a child in foster care for up to 72 consecutive hours when the foster parent uses a reasonable and prudent standard in selecting an appropriate babysitter.

**Authored By:** Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 927 Air quality; reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 927 requires any permittee of an operation that includes the emission of ethylene oxide to report a spill or release of any amount of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection

Division within 24 hours of discovery. The Environmental Protection Division must make the report publicly available on the division's website.

**Authored By:** Rep. Don Parsons (44th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 162 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 929 Solid waste management; post-closure ground-water monitoring at closed coal combustion residual impoundments; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 929 codifies certain state and federal rules by requiring solid waste handling permittees that manage coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundments to conduct post-closure care at the impoundments for a minimum of 30 years following the closure. Post-closure care shall include at least the maintenance of the final cover system, monitoring of ground water, and maintenance of the ground-water monitoring system. The Environmental Protection Division will inspect CCR surface impoundments at least once a year during the closure process and at least once every five years following the closure.

The bill requires that any ground-water monitoring report contain an executive summary written in a manner that can be understood by individuals without technical expertise. The summary shall include a description of the facility and CCR surface impoundment, the ground-water monitoring network, results of the most recent sampling, and status of any corrective action, if applicable.

**Authored By:** Rep. Vance Smith (133rd)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 113 Nays: 52

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 953 Administrative Services, Department of; certain terms in particular types of state contracts shall be void and unenforceable and should not be included in such agreements; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 953, relating to state purchasing, provides guidelines for contracts that are entered into by the Department of Administrative Services.

**Authored By:** Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 161 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 958 The Maternity Supportive Housing Act; enact**

Bill Summary: HB 958 defines "maternity supportive housing" which means a residential home that houses on behalf of a church, religious organization, or non-profit organization up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older and their children for up to 18 months after childbirth. All maternity supportive housing will submit an application with the Department of Human Services. The property must be in compliance with applicable residential building codes and have property insurance coverage on the residence and its residents, newborns, and other children. No local government has the authority to implement rules and ordinances for maternity supportive housing that places requirements that do not also apply to single-family living residences.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 99 Nays: 62

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 959 Solid waste management; surcharges imposed by local governments regarding municipal solid waste facilities operated by private enterprise; increase**

Bill Summary: HB 959 raises the required local government surcharge on a municipal solid waste disposal facility operated by a private enterprise from \$1.00 per ton to \$2.50 per ton. The bill removes an exception for the same facilities that accept coal combustion residuals and raises the required surcharge from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per ton of coal combustion residuals.

The percentage of surcharges collected by local governments specifically designated to offset repairs is lowered from 50 to 40 percent.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Meeks (178th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 162 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 991 Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Act; enact**

Bill Summary: House Bill 991 creates the Health Care Transparency and Accountability Oversight Committee. The committee has authority to review the performance and conduct of all state health care plan contractors and their subcontractors. The oversight committee is composed of nine members: a physician, a pharmacist, and a consumer member who receives benefits from a state health care plan, each appointed by the governor; and six members of the General Assembly, including two members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the lieutenant governor, and two members appointed by the speaker of the House.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th)  
**House** Special Committee on Access to  
**Committee:** Quality Health Care  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 993 Health; vital records reports and data from the state registrar relating to child abuse reports; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 993 directs the state registrar to provide reports filed regarding abuse and neglect concerning a child or his or her parents or siblings to the Division of Family and Children Services.

**Authored By:** Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 994 Courts; provisions relating to addressing criminal gang activities; revise**

Bill Summary: HB 994 adds participation in gang activity to the list of considerations that must be assessed when moving an alleged delinquent child from juvenile court to superior court. A juvenile who has been adjudicated to have engaged in criminal gang activities and placed in restrictive custody must participate in an evidence-based criminal gang intervention program. The list of offenses that fall under criminal gang activity sentencing enhancement include child molestation; aggravated child molestation; enticing a child for indecent purposes; and obstruction or hindering law enforcement officers. Moreover, felony violations of burglary with the intent to commit a sexual offense; child molestation; aggravated child molestation; keeping a place of prostitution; pimping; and pandering are added to the list of sexual offenses under criminal gang activity, which require the offender to be added to the sex offender registry. Local governments can petition the court for injunctive relief for property used in criminal gang activities.

**Authored By:** Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 93 Nays: 65

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-02-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

#### **HB 998 Game and fish; effective date of rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources; change**

Bill Summary: HB 998 aligns implied consent language regarding boating or hunting while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other substances to acknowledge that submitting to a chemical test is optional. The effective date of any rules and regulations regarding criminal violations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources is changed from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020.

The bill designates the shoal bass as the official Georgia state riverine sport fish.

House Bill 998 eliminates the requirement for the Department of Natural Resources to annually report the number of deer killed to the General Assembly. The department may allow for property-specific deer bag limits that do not comply with statewide limits for any property enrolled in the deer management assistance program.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)  
**House** Game, Fish, & Parks  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-03-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1014 Local government; downtown development authorities; remove provision providing perpetual existence to such authorities**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1014 removes a provision that requires downtown development authorities to exist in perpetuity.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1015 Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry; inclusion of building products in construction on the registry; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 1015 requires the director of the Georgia Forestry Commission to establish the Sustainable Building Material Carbon Sequestration Technical Advisory Committee. The committee's members consist of the following: one member with expertise in engineering and architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology; one member with expertise related to the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes; one member that is a real estate developer or builder; one member with expertise related to carbon credit markets; and up to three at-large members. The director of the Georgia Forestry Commission determines the chairperson of the committee. The committee advises the director on interoperability and compatibility of state credits derived from carbon sequestration of building materials with global carbon credit and offset markets.

Developers must register with the Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry to be eligible to receive credits for the use of carbon-capturing building materials. Participants must provide certified carbon sequestration results to provide a baseline. An approved third-party organization may provide testing of building materials that sequester carbon dioxide. Only projects completed after July 1, 2019 may be considered.

To ensure integrity of the program, the Georgia Forestry Commission must conduct random evaluations of the results provided by participants and report the findings in the biennial report to the governor and General Assembly.

**Authored By:** Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 156 Nays: 10

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1017 Public officers and employees; revise when dependents qualify for a payment of indemnification for death under the Georgia State Indemnification Fund**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1017 requires indemnification payments for death suffered in the line of duty by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, emergency management specialist, state highway employee, or a prison guard to be made to the surviving, not remarried spouse; the surviving children under the age of 19, or under the age of 24 if the child is a student enrolled in an institution of postsecondary education; or any dependents not included in Georgia Code, but who are shown as dependents in the spouse's or deceased person's most recent tax return. In the case of organic brain damage suffered in the line of duty, the payment is made to the legal guardian of the organically brain-damaged person. The bill applies to claims regarding any incident giving rise to a death occurring on or after August 1, 2016.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (169th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Public Safety & Homeland Security	<b>Committee</b>	03-05-2020 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 163 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1020 Motor vehicles; license suspension for conviction of drug related offenses; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1020 changes the hour requirement from 20 hours to 16 hours for the intervention component of DUI risk reduction programs. If an individual completes a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program in order to obtain a limited driving permit, the Department of Driver Services is required to count that completed course toward specified driver's license reinstatement requirements. The completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program is added as part of the punishment for specified driving offenses.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Micah Gravley (67th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Motor Vehicles	<b>Committee</b>	03-10-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 153 Nays: 9	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1021 Georgia Driver's Education Commission; increase the additional penalty for violation of traffic laws or ordinance under "Joshua's Law"**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1021 increases the additional penalty under Joshua's Law from 1.5 percent to three percent of the original fine.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Motor Vehicles	<b>Committee</b>	03-03-2020 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 151 Nays: 9	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1026 Education; number of REACH scholars to be designated by participating school systems; revise**

Bill Summary: House Bill 527 amends O.C.G.A. 20-3-499, relating to the selection of REACH scholars. Under the provisions of this bill, the number of REACH scholars is reduced from 12 to eight for school systems with five or more high schools and from seven to five for school systems with less than five high schools.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Education	<b>Committee</b>	03-05-2020 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 109 Nays: 58	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1032 Health; certificate of need laws; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1032 establishes a behavioral rehabilitation joint venture, or an agreement between a general acute hospital and an institution for mental diseases to authorize the institution to manage up to 16 of the hospital's vacant beds as swing beds for the treatment of behavioral health patients. The Department of Community Health (DCH) will provide Medicaid reimbursement up to 100 percent for any patient treated under the joint venture.

Additionally, an ambulatory surgery facility that performs medical procedures only in non-sterile procedure rooms, and has a letter of determination from DCH that the performance of certain procedures is not subject to prior review and approval for certificate of need (CON), is not required to have an operating room or be subject to any minimum physical plant and operational standards specified in DCH rules for purposes of CON.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Matt Hatchett (150th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Special Committee on Access to	<b>Committee</b>	03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>	Quality Health Care	<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 124 Nays: 41	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1035 Sales and use tax; certain tax exemptions; repeal sunset provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1035 amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-7.05, 48-8-7.3, 48-8-46, 48-8-57.1, 48-8-57.2, and 48-8-57.3, relating to exemptions to sales and use taxes, by eliminating the sunset dates on the sales and use tax exemptions on purchases made by and tangible personal property donated to non-profit health centers, non-profit volunteer health clinics, qualified food banks, donations of food and food ingredients to a qualified non-profit agency used for hunger relief or disaster relief purposes, and donations of food and food ingredients following a natural disaster which is used for disaster relief purposes. The bill also expands the sales tax exemption to blood banks to include organ procurement organizations. Each organ procurement organization exempt must submit an annual report to the Department of Community Health, which includes the number of donors and transplants facilitated by the organization in the prior fiscal year.

The bill also extends the sunset dates on the sales tax exemptions on the sale or use of non-commercial written materials or mailings by a non-profit organization if the organization is located in Georgia and provides the materials to charity supporters for educational, charitable, religious, or fundraising purposes from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2026 and on the sales tax exemption on maintenance and replacement parts for transit concrete mixer trucks from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2025.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)  
**House** Ways & Means  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 156 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1037 Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act; move certain sound recordings from qualified production activities to production expenditures**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1037 amends 48-7-40.26, relating to the 'Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act' by expanding the audit requirements, restricting the additional 10 percent credit received for including the Georgia promotional, and by limiting the qualified expenditures.

The bill requires all productions claiming credits to be audited by either an independent auditor or the Department of Revenue. Beginning January 1, 2021, all projects seeking a credit greater than \$2.5 million must comply with the audit requirements. Beginning January 1, 2022, all projects seeking a credit greater than \$1.25 million must comply with the audit requirements. Beginning January 1, 2023, all projects seeking a credit of any amount must comply with the audit requirements.

When applying for the tax credit, the production company must submit the following information prior to beginning the required audit: a description of the state certified production; a detailed accounting of all qualified production activities; a detailed listing of employee names and wages when salaries are included in the base investment; receipts for tangible personal property included in the base investment; contracts for goods or services included in the base investment; W-9 forms completed and issued by each vendor for which expenditures are included in the base investment; notification of any intent to utilize an eligible auditor; a description of the distribution of the state certified production; the total amount of the tax credit sought; and a statement affirming that the documents submitted are true and correct.

Each audit must do the following: be completed in accordance with this Code section and procedures developed by the department; utilize sampling methods adopted by the department; follow regulations published by the department; verify each expenditure and exclude any that do not fully meet the requirements; exclude any expenditure not submitted or which occurred after the application was submitted; and be submitted to the department for review and revisions prior to issuing a final certificate.

The department shall provide for certification and decertification of certified public accountants as eligible auditors. To obtain certification an accountant must: register with the department; maintain its registration with the Georgia State Board of Accountancy; agree to and be capable of completing audits in accordance with procedures developed by the department; successfully complete all training required; pay the department a registration fee; and post and maintain any bond the department establishes for each auditor.



For each year a production company claims or transfers the tax credit, the production company must attach the following information to the companies tax return: the amount of the credit claimed; any tax credit previously taken by the production company; the amount of tax credit carried over from prior years; the amount of tax credit utilized in the current tax year; and the amount of tax credit to be carried over to subsequent tax years.

The bill also states that the additional 10 percent credit received for including the Georgia promotional logo shall only be allowed after a production or other qualifying product has been commercially distributed in multiple markets. Presentations are specifically exempted the additional credit. A "presentation" is defined as a production combining visual and audio elements primarily created for the purpose of promoting, showcasing, or selling a film, television, or streaming project which is not intended for any form of commercial distribution.

The bill limits the qualified post-production expenditures by specifically excluding expenditures for work or services not conducted in Georgia, expenditures for goods that were not purchased or rented in Georgia from a Georgia retailer, and transactions that are subject to sales and use tax but where the sales and use tax was not paid.

The carry forward period for the credits earned is reduced from five years to three years.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Dollar (45th)  
**House** Ways & Means  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 156 Nays: 10

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1039 Contracts; additional protections for consumers who enter into service contracts that contain lengthy automatic renewal provisions; provide**

**Bill Summary:** HB 1039 requires that a seller for any contract for service that automatically renews for a period of more than 12 months must obtain the following for the automatic renewal provision to be enforceable: written or electronic acknowledgement from the consumer that a notification has been provided, and a written or electronic response indicating the consumer does not intend to terminate the contract.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)  
**House** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1045 Insurance; include flood risk reduction in the enumerated list of county purposes for which certain proceeds from county taxes shall be used**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1045 adds flood risk reduction to the list of services that a county may provide with the proceeds from certain county taxes.

**Authored By:** Rep. Don Hogan (179th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 168 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1046 Commerce and trade; provide for assistance to individuals with disabilities at self-service gasoline stations**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1046 requires every attendant employed by a gasoline station to dispense gasoline for the holder of a special disability permit. If a second attendant is not present then the gasoline station is not required to provide assistance.

**Authored By:** Rep. Henry "Wayne" Howard (124th)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 142 Nays: 16

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-10-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1050 Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association; certain persons receiving insurance coverage from health maintenance organization subscriber contracts or health care corporation plans; extend association protections**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1050 adds "health care management organizations" to the life and health association guarantee fund and equally splits future assessments for long-term care insurer insolvencies between the association's member insurers.

**Authored By:** Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th)  
**House** Insurance  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 155 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1057 Agriculture; further regulation of soil amendments derived from industrial by-products by local governments; authorize**

Bill Summary: HB 1057 prohibits the distribution or application of fertilizer or a soil amendment that contains domestic septage. The first instance an individual is caught distributing or applying fertilizer or a soil amendment that contains domestic septage shall be considered a misdemeanor, with each subsequent violation being considered a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. The first offense shall carry a penalty of no more than \$25,000, while each subsequent offense shall be penalized no more than \$50,000 per violation.

Any individual that distributes a soil amendment must pay the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources a fee of no more than \$0.30 per ton. Each registrant must keep records of sales and file semi-annual reports that include the fee payments.

The bill allows for the Department of Natural Resources to set the minimum standards for the application of soil amendments derived from industrial by-products through rules and regulations, excluding forest products, slates, clays, shells, gypsum, and lime. Local governments may further regulate soil amendments by adopting or enforcing any zoning ordinance that exceeds the minimum standards set by the department.

**Authored By:** Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th)  
**House** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 2

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1070 Condominiums; new insurance policy disclosure requirements for condominium associations and unit owners in the event of potential or actual claims filed against such policies; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1070 allows a condominium association and unit owners to request a written copy of the certificate of insurance or contact information of the assigned adjuster from the other party for claims related to water damage.

**Authored By:** Rep. Houston Gaines (117th)  
**House** Insurance  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 157 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1073 Local government; creation of regional development authorities; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1073 provides guidelines for the establishment and governance of regional development authorities. A regional development authority may be created via a joint resolution by a group of three to five contiguous counties. Regional development authorities are eligible to apply to the One Georgia Authority for grants to fund primary care medical facilities within the regional development authority's jurisdiction.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 155 Nays: 11

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-10-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1084 State government; provide for the creation of the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals**

Bill Summary: HB 1084 creates the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to support the efforts of the Department of Economic Development through education. The endowment identifies key courses, subjects, and disciplines for the expansion of state businesses and provide grants to branches of the technical college system that enable teachers to offer those courses.

An 11-member board of trustees led by the TCSG commissioner governs the endowment. The remaining members include four persons appointed by the governor, three appointed by the speaker of the House, and three appointed by the lieutenant governor. The board appoints an advisory committee of no more than 30 members, 15 serve four-year terms and 15 serve two-year terms. The advisory committee includes at least two members from each of the state's congressional districts. The endowment's board of trustees' is responsible for receiving and investing funds for its grants, employs staff, and enters into contracts necessary for the management of its assets. The board also conducts an annual, independent audit to be shared with the state auditor and accounting officer, in addition to providing an annual report to the governor and General Assembly regarding its activities, impact on education and economic development, and legislative recommendations.

HB 1084 provides that the endowment shall not make any expenditures until state and private funding each reach \$50,000. If that threshold is not met by December 31, 2022, the endowment will be discontinued by June 30, 2023 and return any public or private contributions to donors.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)  
**House** Higher Education  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 158 Nays: 2

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-11-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1090 Labor and industrial relations; provisions regarding employer's obligation to provide break time for an employee to express breast milk; revise**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1090 requires employers to provide break time to employees who need to express breast milk.

**Authored By:** Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd)  
**House** Health & Human Services  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 145 Nays: 16

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1092 Professions and businesses; authorize delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life threatening situations**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1092 authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life threatening situations if delegated to do so by a physician. The bill increases from four to six the number of advanced practice registered nurses the physician may supervise in a nurse protocol agreement.

**Authored By:** Rep. Alan Powell (32nd)  
**House** Regulated Industries  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 114 Nays: 38

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1093 Agriculture; provide for an Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes**

Bill Summary: HB 1093 creates the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes. Two members shall be producers of wine as appointed by ex-officio members and one member from each of the three designated regions in the state.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Meeks (178th)  
**House** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 157 Nays: 11

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**HB 1098 Highways, bridges, and ferries; development of a state-wide strategic transportation plan; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1098 updates the requirement for the Department of Transportation to develop the statewide strategic transportation plan in coordination with the statewide transportation plan that is required by the federal government.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Transportation	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-05-2020 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 167 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1102 Revised Homestead Option Sales and Use Tax Act of 2020; enact**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1102 amends Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., by adding the 'Revised Homestead Option Sales and Use Tax Act of 2020.' The bill allows for the voters of a county where a homestead option sales and use tax (HOST) is currently in place to file a petition, signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters, with the county election superintendent to replace the current HOST with a revised homestead option sales and use tax (RHOST). Ninety-nine percent of the proceeds of a RHOST must be disbursed to each municipality and used to roll back, and eliminate if possible, the millage rates for the ad valorem taxes on homesteaded properties and the remaining one percent shall be directed to the state general fund to defray the cost of administration.

The bill also contains ballot language for the replacement of a HOST with a RHOST and the termination of a RHOST.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Dale Rutledge (109th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Ways & Means	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-11-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 91 Nays: 70	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1122 Regional commissions; appointment of nonpublic members to the councils; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1122 changes the makeup of regional commission councils by removing members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House of Representatives and adding one non-public resident of each county in the region. The bill provides for the establishment of an executive committee for each council.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Sam Watson (172nd)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Governmental Affairs	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-10-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 168 Nays: 2	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HB 1125 Lacey's Law; enact**

Bill Summary: HB 1125 requires the Department of Community Health and the Georgia Composite Medical Board to identify and compile information on an annual basis that identifies individuals at high risk for breast cancer. The bill requires the State Health Benefit Plan to include coverage for breast cancer screening for women ages 30 or older who are at high risk of breast cancer.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Trey Kelley (16th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Health & Human Services	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-10-2020 Do Pass
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 163 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**HR 18 Robinson, Mr. Jakeith Bendray, Sr.; compensate**

Bill Summary: HR 18 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Jakeith Bendray Robinson, Sr. \$560,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

**Authorized By:** Rep. Carolyn Hugley (136th)  
**House** Appropriations  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 128 Nays: 26  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1038 Gardiner, Kenneth Eric; compensate**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1038 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Kenneth Eric Gardiner \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

**Authorized By:** Rep. J. Craig Gordon (163rd)  
**House** Appropriations  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 131 Nays: 25  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1039 Lucci, Dominic Brian; compensate**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1039 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Dominic Brian Lucci \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

**Authorized By:** Rep. J. Craig Gordon (163rd)  
**House** Appropriations  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 134 Nays: 23  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1041 Jones, Mark Jason; compensate**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1041 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to pay Mark Jason Jones \$1,000,000 in the form of an annuity paid in equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning one year after an initial lump sum payment of \$50,000.

**Authorized By:** Rep. J. Craig Gordon (163rd)  
**House** Appropriations  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 133 Nays: 22  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1163 Justice Robert Benham Bridge; Bartow County; dedicate**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1163 is the annual House version of road dedications and includes:

House Resolution 1163, dedicating the bridge on State Route 113 over I-75 in Bartow County as the Justice Robert Benham Bridge;

House Resolution 880, dedicating the bridge over Wilmington River on State Route 26/Island Expressway in Chatham County the Al St. Lawrence Memorial Bridge;

House Resolution 896, dedicating the bridge at Wilmington River on State Route 26/U.S. 80 in Chatham County the James "Jimmy" A. Petrea Bridge;

House Resolution 912, dedicating the new portion of Belfast Siding Road located at Interstate 95 in Bryan County the Jimmy Burnsed Interchange;

House Resolution 913, dedicating the bridge at Belfast Siding Road in Bryan County the Fowler-Burnsed Bridge;

House Resolution 1092, dedicating the portion of State Route 153 from State Route 41 to the Marion County line in Webster County as the Chris Shannon Memorial 16 Highway;

House Resolution 1161, dedicating the portion of State Route 15 from mile marker 6 to mile marker 8 in Oconee County as the T/5 James Oscar Hardigree, Jr., U.S. Army WWII Memorial Highway;

House Resolution 1165, dedicating the intersection of State Route 113 and US 41/State Route 3 in Bartow County as the Sgt. Stanley Thomas Bradley Veterans Memorial Intersection;

House Resolution 1218, dedicating the portion of State Route 64 from the city limit of Ray City to the Berrien County border as the James Edward Giddens Memorial Highway;

House Resolution 1238, dedicating the portion of State Route 280 from the Lanier Community to Black Creek Bridge in Bryan County as the Blondean Newman Highway;

House Resolution 1268, dedicating the interchange at Interstate 85 with Interstate 285 in Fulton County as the Emma Darnell Memorial Interchange;

House Resolution 1281, dedicating the portion of State Route 9 from the Dawson County line to the intersection with Highway 53 in Dawson County as Thunder Road;

House Resolution 1283, dedicating the portion of State Route 92 from 1st Avenue to Henry Jackson Road in Spalding County as the Dr. Randy Valimont Memorial Highway;

House Resolution 1267, dedicating the I-75/SR 27 interchange in Dooly County as the Asa Daniels, Jr., Interchange;

House Resolution 1325, dedicating the interchange at I-75 and Pinehurst-Hawkinsville Road/Exit 117 in Dooly County as the Van Peavy, Jr., Interchange.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th)  
**House** Transportation  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 0  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1216 Rappé Way; City of Savannah; rededicate**

**Bill Summary:** House Resolution 1216 rededicates Directors Drive behind the Annex Buildings at the Garden City Terminal as Rappé Way.

**Authored By:** Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd)  
**House** Transportation  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 169 Nays: 0  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-05-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

### **HR 1300 Glynn County; Murray County; change of use of certain property; authorize**

**Bill Summary:** HR 1300 grants an easement on six acres of land on a heritage preserve in Glynn County, in the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to the Department of Transportation for the widening of State Route 25/US Route 17 and installing a roundabout at the intersection of State Route 25/US Route 17 and State Route 99.

The bill grants an easement for 0.194 of an acre of a heritage preserve in Murray County, in the custody of the Department of Natural Resources, to the Department of Transportation for the widening of State Route 52 ALT.

**Authored By:** Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th)  
**House** State Properties  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 1  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee** 03-04-2020 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Insurance Committee

**HB 606 Insurance; life insurers to provide certain policy information to funeral homes within 24 hours of receipt of the funeral home's notification of an insured's death; require**

Bill Summary: HB 606 renews the 'Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act', which creates tax incentives for capital investment in rural Georgia.

**Authored By:** Rep. Patty Bentley (139th)  
**House Committee:** Insurance

**Committee Action:** 03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 188 Reinsurance of Risks; adequate regulation of reinsurers; incorporation of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners reinsurance model into the Georgia Insurance Code; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 188 provides authority to the commissioner of Insurance to adopt by regulation specific additional requirements relating to or setting forth the valuation of assets or reserve credits, the amount and forms of security supporting reinsurance arrangements, and the circumstances in which credit is reduced or eliminated.

**Authored By:** Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)  
**House Committee:** Insurance

**Committee Action:** 03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System

**HB 474 Labor and industrial relations; certain procedures prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rules of the State Board of Workers' Compensation; require**

Bill Summary: House Bill 474 adds a new Code section relating to the rule-making process for the State Board of Workers' Compensation. When adopting, amending, or repealing any rules, the board must do the following: notify the board's advisory council and the General Assembly; hold a hearing if one is called for; and provide a report, if necessary, to the General Assembly. If the House or Senate Industry and Labor Committees object to a rule change, a resolution to override the rule change can be brought before the General Assembly.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Kirby (114th)  
**House Committee:** Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System

**Committee Action:** 03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 1101 Insurance; requirements of insurers upon information requests by claimants; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 1101 amends O.C.G.A. 33-3-28 relating to specific information an insurance company must provide to the claimant or claimant's agent prior to or contemporaneously with a settlement offer, but not later than 30 days of receiving a mailed, written, and sworn request from the claimant for the information. The information must include a statement of all applicable insurance policies, including excess or umbrella insurance, as well as the: name of insurer; name of each insured; and limits of coverage, including time limitations. The insurer must also provide a statement of whether the insured was operating the vehicle at the time of the incident, and if so, for what purpose or use; whether the insured was acting within the scope of a business or employment, and if so, the name and address of the business or place of employment and the applicable insurance company; the insured's place of residence at the time of the incident; if a motor vehicle was involved, whether the insured resided with any relatives that own a motor vehicle and the names and insurance carriers for those motor vehicles; whether the insured owns any other motor vehicles, and if so, the vehicle description and names of insurance carriers; the identity of any other person the insurer or



insured believes to be liable for injuries caused by the incident; the name of each known insurer which may be liable to the claimant; and a statement which references the policy number and claim number.

If an insurance company fails to provide the required information at the required time, the claimant shall have a claim for bad faith against the insurance company. If an insurance company is unable to provide the necessary information after reasonable inquiry, the insurance company will be in compliance with the bill if it sends proper notice to the claimant. Finally, the bill repeals the bar to private rights of action against insurance companies for certain unfair claims settlement practices.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 1108 Property; procedures and requirements for the payment of certain settlements involving minors' claims; clarify and revise**

Bill Summary: HB 1108 amends O.C.G.A. 29-3-3 relating to the payment of certain settlements involving minors' claims. If a minor's gross settlement is less than \$25,000, the natural guardian of the minor may compromise the claim without becoming the conservator of the minor and without any court approval. If the settlement is over \$25,000, the probate court must approve the settlement. If legal action has been initiated and the proposed gross settlement of a minor's claim is more than \$25,000, the settlement must be approved by the court in which the action is pending. If legal action has been initiated and the gross settlement is more than \$25,000 but the net settlement is less than \$25,000, the settlement must be approved by the court in which the action is pending but no conservator or approval of the probate court is required. If both the gross and net settlement of a minor's claim is more than \$25,000 the settlement must be approved from the court in which the action is pending.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. James Burchett (176th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 1116 Insurance; uninsured motorist coverage; revise liability of an insurer upon refusal to pay an insured**

Bill Summary: HB 1116 amends O.C.G.A. 33-7-11, relating motor vehicle insurance, to allow an insured party to collect either 25 percent of the recovery or \$25,000, whichever is greater, from an insurer if the insurer refuses in bad faith to pay the insured after the insured makes a demand to be paid. Currently, the Code limits an insured party from collecting above 25 percent of the recovery.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 1121 Torts; right of action for sexual harassment against a co-worker, supervisor, or employer; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 1121 provides individuals with a right of action for sexual harassment against co-workers or supervisors who initiate nonconsensual or unwelcomed sexual advances and the individual suffers adverse treatment by their employer for rejecting the advance or the advance creates a hostile work environment for the individual.

The bill creates a statute of limitations allowing an individual to file an action within one year from the date of the incident or within 180 days from the exhaustion of employer based remedies, whichever is later.

Defenses against a claim for sexual harassment include consent or proof that the conduct or advance did not rise above the level of merely tactless, boorish, inconsiderate, overfamiliar, or otherwise impolite behavior. Relief includes compensation for lost wages, benefits, or other compensatory damages.

**Authored By:**

Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)

**House**

Special Committee on Access to the

**Committee:**

Civil Justice System

**Committee****Action:**03-12-2020 Do Pass by Committee  
Substitute

## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.  
To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

**Friday, March 13, 2020**11:00 AM [FLOOR SESSION \(LD 29\)](#) House Chamber